

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003623

ORIGIN HA-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CSCE, CVIS, SHUM, CZ

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES

REF: PRAGUE 3625

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES TIMELY PRESENTATION OF DIVIDED FAMILIES' LIST TO CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE PROSPECT THAT FURTHER POSITIVE RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES IS LIKELY. HOWEVER, WE ARE STRUCK WITH THE PROPOSAL OFFERED BY HOUZVICKA THAT REUNITING ANY OF THE FAMILIES IS CONTINGENT UPON THE CHARACTER OF US-CSSR RELATIONS. THIS STRIKES US AS THE MOST CANDID CSSR ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT DIVIDED FAMILY CASES ARE BEING DECIDED BY PRAGUE AUTHORITIES ON MERITS OTHER THAN HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS AND THAT THE PERSONS SEEKING TO LEAVE CSSR TO JOIN RELATIVES HERE ARE, IN FACT, POLITICAL HOSTAGES TO A RANSOM OF CHANGING US-CSSR TIES.

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PAGE 02 STATE 003623

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE USG POSSESSES NO LEVERAGE TO FORCE CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO ALLOW PARTICULAR FAMILIES TO BE REUNITED. NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO REGISTER, FOR THE RECORD, THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HOLDING OUT FOR IMPROVED US-CSSR TIES BY

DENYING POSITIVE RESOLUTION OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES.
WE BELIEVE THAT THE REVERSE PROPOSITION IS THE CASE:
UNLESS SUCH CASES LIKE THESE ARE RESOLVED AND PROGRESS
IN OTHER MATTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN IS MADE, IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO
IMPROVE.

3. WE CONSIDER HOUZVICKA'S COMMENTS PROFOUNDLY
INCONSISTENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S COMMITMENTS IN THE
HUMAN CONTACTS SECTION OF BASKET THREE OF THE HELSINKI
FINAL ACT. AS A MATTER OF BASIC US POLICY IN CSCE,
THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES COMPLIANCE BY EACH SIGNATORY
COUNTRY TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IS TO BE EXPECTED APART
FROM ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED NOTION OF RECIPROCITY OR QUID
PRO QUO INVOLVING THIS COUNTRY. EVIDENCE OF THIS
COMPLIANCE BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HOWEVER, IS IMPORTANT IN
EVERY RESPECT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. WE ACCEPT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE POINTS ABOVE WERE
MADE TO HOUZVICKA BY CONOFFS. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED,
NEVERTHELESS, TO SEEK APPOINTMENT AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH
LEVEL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPRESS THE UNACCEPTABILITY
TO THE U.S. OF CSSR DECISIONS ON DIVIDED FAMILY CASES
BASED ON THE CHARACTER OF US-USSR TIES. POST MAY DRAW
UPON ALL POINTS MADE IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS AS APPRO-
PRIATE. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST INDICATION
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PAGE 03 STATE 003623

OR CSSR REACTION. CHRISTOPHER

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